

REMARKS

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for allegedly not showing items 48, 50, 52, 54 or 56 as described in the specification.

Claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Robotham et al. (U.S. 2002/0015042).

Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

One (1) page of a Replacement Sheet showing Fig. 3 has been submitted.

Reconsideration of the application based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a).

A new Replacement Sheet showing text in the boxes of Fig. 3 has been submitted.

Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1 to 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Robotham et al.

Robotham et al. relates to the display of visual content on a client device using rasterized representations of visual content. The visual content is rendered on a server system, transformed into bitmaps compatible with the display attributes of a client device, and transmitted for display on the client device. Some of the types of content displayed on the client device are web pages, email, electronic documents, database queries and drawings. (See paragraph [0014]).

Claim 1 recites a method for digital imaging of a printing form through application of energy, the printing form having a burn-off area detachably fixed by supporting points in the burn-off area, the supporting points being left in place on the printing form through non-imaging of image spots, the method comprising the steps of: leaving in place at least one of the supporting points in at least one reference point if a number of image spots to be imaged in a surrounding area of the reference point exceeds a limit value and a boundary area in the surrounding area

around the reference point contains only image spots to be imaged; and detaching burn-off from the burn-off area from the printing form in a cleaning step.

Neither AAPA nor Robotham et al. discloses “leaving in place at least one of the supporting points in at least one reference point if a number of image spots to be imaged in a surrounding area of the reference point exceeds a limit value and a boundary area in the surrounding area around the reference point contains only image spots to be imaged” as recited in claim 1. As disclosed in paragraph [0005] of the specification, AAPA may result in large burn-off areas being detached free of any control making controlled cleaning of the printing area and the removal of the burn-off very hard or even impossible to perform. This may cause supporting points to be visible in the printed image when the imaging is at low resolution. (See paragraph [0005] to [0008] and Fig. 5). Therefore, AAPA does not show the method as recited in claim 1. The supporting points as claimed are “left in place in the printing form.”

Robotham et al. relates to a method of rendering and transforming visual content on a server system based on a display attributes of a client device, and transmitting the transformed visual content for display on a client device. (See Robotham et al paragraph [0002]). Robotham et al. is not related to and is not in the field of art of digital imaging of print forms, i.e. printing plates or to supporting points as claimed. Rather, Robotham et al. relates to displaying visual content by rasterizing (generating a bitmap image from the input data) on the server side into a form compatible with the client device. (See Robotham et al. paragraphs [0004], [0014] and [0015]).

One skilled in the art would not combine AAPA with Robotham et al. because Robotham et al. is not related at all to printing form imagery. In addition, the combination still does not meet the claim language.

Moreover, the paragraph the Office Action cites to, see paragraph [0186] of Robotham et al., is related to image compression, which while important for Robotham’s purported invention, is not related to plate imaging as claimed.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claim 1 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and applicant respectfully requests such action.

If any additional fees are deemed to be due at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

One (1) page of a Replacement Sheet showing Fig. 3 has been submitted.